

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTIONS OF THREE APPARENTLY NEW
SPECIES OF MAMMALS.

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Canis pambasileus* sp. nov.

AUTOCRAT TIMBER WOLF.

Type from Sushitna River, region of Mount McKinley, Alaska. No. 13,481, Field Columbian Mus., Chicago.

General characters.—Color from nearly uniform black to white and black in various mixtures. Skull: Size larger than those of timber wolves of Canada or United States; ridge of sagittal and occipital crest nearly on a level with frontal and with only a very slight descent at occiput and very deep at that point; maxillae very broad and rounded posteriorly at junction with the frontals, much broader than in *C. occidentalis*; nasals pointed posteriorly but considerably broader than those of southern timber wolves; premaxillae extending considerably over one-half the length of the nasals, while in *C. occidentalis* in some cases this bone does not reach over one third the length of the nasals and occasionally not even that length; intertemporal width considerable, with a deep median depression between the frontals; the basisphenoid is very broad, and the postglenoid processes very wide and flattened; the mandible is massive, heavy, very deep, and of nearly uniform height on horizontal portion, with the inferior outline nearly straight, very different from the curving outline of the mandible of *C. occidentalis*; the coronoid process is very broad, high, of nearly equal width throughout, and with the posterior outline nearly straight, not curving like that of the southern species; teeth in both jaws large and heavy, exceeding in size those of *C. occidentalis* in the same proportion as do the skulls.

* *παμβασίλειος*—an absolute monarch.

Color.—Type: General hue of body, tail, legs and feet black; the bases of the long hairs a smoky white, showing rather conspicuously on the sides; a pure white spot on the breast, and lower part of the abdomen, and large spots on the fore part of chest behind fore legs grayish white; head and ears shining black; tail black, with few white hairs at tip; claws black.

Other specimens are all black with very few grayish white hairs showing. From this sable hue, which in certain sections seems to be the prevailing one, the color varies in different mixtures of black and white to that in which the white is the prominent color with jet black lines on dorsal surface and neck. The tail of this style is mostly white with black mixed in in places and with the tip black.

Measurements.—Skull: Total length, 263; Hensel, 233; zygomatic width, 143; intertemporal width, 64; lateral length of nasals, 97; median length, 85; width of rostrum at canines, 55.5; palatal length, 126; width of palate between sectorials at base, 64; length of upper tooth row, anterior edge of canine to posterior edge of last molar, 114; length of canine, 36; alveolar length of carnassials, 27; width of row of incisors at tips, 42; total length of mandible, 206; depth beneath carnassial, 32; height of coronoid process from lower edge of angle, 78; width of coronoid process at tip, 29.

In a collection from the upper waters of the Sushitna River in the region of Mount McKinley were the skins and skulls of several wolves, remarkable for their large size and black color. While larger than any that I had previously seen from Alaska, the size would not alone have been deemed of consequence had it not been accompanied by the characters that are apparently not to be found in the timber wolves of the countries to the south, and which make these animals worthy of being considered as belonging to a distinct form. The skulls when compared with those of *C. occidentalis* exhibit conspicuously the differences given in the description above, and the peculiar coloration of the various individuals may not easily be found among those of the allied species.

***Lutra periclyzomae* * sp. nov.**

SEA-GIRT OR ISLAND OTTER.

Type from Gawi, west coast of Moresby Id., Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, Canada. No. 491, Field Columbian Mus., Chicago.

General characters.—Skull: Size large; intertemporal region long and narrow, greatly constricted for its entire length; in young animals this constriction is not so apparent. Rostrum short and very broad; postorbital processes greatly elongated; braincase without crests, rounded, and widest posteriorly; bullae small and flat, barely rising above the level of the basioccipital; pterygoid fossa broad for its entire length, the sides nearly straight but widening gradually to tips of pterygoid processes where the

* περικλύζομαι—to be sea-girt.

width is greatest; upper molars very large, the cusps on exterior side very high and acute; last molar square-shaped, slightly widest on interior edge.

Measurements.—Skull: Total length, 122; Hensel, 107; zygomatic width, 81; intertemporal constriction, 20; width across postorbital processes, 40; width of rostrum at canines, 30.5; palatal length, 55; length of upper tooth row, anterior edge of canine to posterior edge of last molar, 40; length of nasals, 17.5; total length of mandible, angle to tips of incisors, 76; length of lower tooth row, anterior edge of canine to posterior edge of last molar, alveolar border, 46; length of canine, 13; length of lower carnassial, 15.

In a small collection of skulls presented to the Museum by Dr. C. F. Newcombe from the Queen Charlotte Islands were three of otters. Comparing these with skulls of *L. c. pacifica*, rather striking differences are at once perceived, such as the unusually lengthened constriction of the intertemporal region, the smallness and flatness of the bullae; the heavy wide rostrum and muzzle, and the large long-cusped molars. The postorbital processes in the type project outward and backward like horns and the various distinctive characters and comparative differences exhibited between the skull of this island animal and that of the mainland species indicate that they may not properly be considered as one and the same. It is evidently a large and powerful animal, possibly exceeding in size its near relative. The other skulls from Queen Charlotte Island were those of *Ursus carlottae* Osgood and *Mustela nesophila* Osgood.

***Gulo hylaesus** sp. nov.**

MOUNT MCKINLEY WOLVERINE.

Type from upper waters of Sushitna River, region of Mount McKinley, Alaska. No. 9883, Field Columbian Mus., Chicago.

General characters.—*Type*: General color very dark; no buff hue on body, or gray on head anywhere visible. Skull compared with that of specimens from New Brunswick, Canada, is narrower, especially at intertemporal region, also postorbital constriction and posterior region of braincase; and the zygomatic width is less; but the audital bullae are nearly twice as large, and swollen greatly on their inner margin, whereas those of the Canadian animal are much flattened and small in size.

Color.—Head, throat, sides of neck and body, and base of tail chestnut; hind part of neck, back, underparts, legs, and feet black; chest spotted or blotched with white or orange, and orange spot on anal region; nose darker chestnut than head; tail, except at base, black.

Measurements.—Skull: Total length, 157; Hensel, 133; zygomatic width, 104; intertemporal width, 47; postorbital constriction, 32; palatal length, 75; greatest width of braincase, 67.5; mastoid width, 89; post-palatal length, 57; length of nasals, 21; length of upper premolar and molar series, 41;

* *υλαιος*—living in forests.

length of mandible, 101; height of coronoid process above angle, 35; length of lower premolar and molar series, 54; length of lower carnassial alveolar border, 21.

Six specimens before me from the Sushitna River and four specimens of *G. luscus* from Canada exhibit the differences between the species as expressed in the above description. The type and two of the others, old individuals, are darker on the sides of the body than are the other three and this part in these specimens is a buffy chestnut; but all have the dark heads which make them externally conspicuously different from the eastern animal with its gray head and black muzzle, and cause the new form to be recognizable at a glance. The large bullae of the Alaskan animal will also readily distinguish the skulls.